

From: Jonathan Sorger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To U.S. Department of Justice:

I have been following the Microsoft antitrust case and have noticed a disturbing pattern that has plagued the business world...that competition is no longer the catalyst for developing new products in certain markets...that monopolies continue to exist and operate with impunity.

Former U.S. Senator John Tunney criticized Microsoft's disclosure of its contacts with our government throughout the antitrust case as "inadequate". Microsoft interpreted his legislation, The Tunney Act, with tunnel vision; and ultimately, to their benefit, as the case was settled with the U.S. government and 9 of 18 states. Why have large corporations with their Congressional lobbying groups become so influential in determining the fate of the general public?

This is a company that produces a ubiquitous operating system and now a ubiquitous internet browser; only because it has bullied and squeezed out much of the competition over the years. I am an Apple computer enthusiast, but I have to work in a Windows NT world. Yes, I use some of Microsoft's products on both platforms. They do make some good software. But is it good because they've lured or snatched up many of the talented people that worked for their competition at one time? Is it good because most consumers do not know or care what else is available because Microsoft applications were pre-loaded with their computer? I'd love to become a full-time Linux user, but am forced to use the ever-pervasive Microsoft Word because no alternatives exist.

Please do not make an already powerful company more powerful. I will be watching what develops with the European regulators, with the 9 remaining holdout states, as well as with the Netscape browser case.

Thank you for providing a feedback mechanism to the public on this important case.

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